Amendments to the Drawings:

A corrected Fig. 43 is enclosed.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's first Office Action of November 28, 2005 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Terminal Disclaimer with respect to USSN 10/760,216, Amendment to the specification and claims, and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

Page 1, line 9 and page 32, line 34 are amended to update applications numbers;

page 13, line 16, page 14, line 34, page 17, line 15, page 18, line 9 and page 22, line 11 of the present specification are amended to omit reference to Fig. 17C;

independent claim 1 is amended to specify that the casing is elongate and that movement of the printhead module is constrained relative to the casing in the direction of printing whilst being allowed to move in the longitudinal direction of the casing. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 13, line 34-page 14, line 18 of the present specification;

dependent claim 5 is amended to clarify that at least two fluid distribution members are provided, each for one of the printhead integrated circuits. Support for this amendment can be found at page 6, line 33-page 7, line 9 and page 8, lines 21-29 of the present specification; and

dependent claims 2-4 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding Drawing Objections

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendments to omit reference to Fig. 17C in the present specification, provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding Claim Objections

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment to claim 5 to clarify that at least two fluid distribution members are provided, each for one of the printhead integrated circuits, provides sufficient antecedent basis for the term "the fluid distribution members" later in the claim.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-5 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by Silverbrook et al. (US 6,439,908), for at least the following reasons.

In the present invention, each printhead module 30 has two or more printhead tiles/integrated circuits 50,51 arranged on an elongate fluid channel member 40. At least two of these printhead modules are longitudinally assembled within a casing 20 to form a printhead. Multiple printhead modules, each having multiple printhead tiles, are used in the printhead assembly so that replacement of the modules and selection of printhead length are easily provided without the need to provide individual controllers and connections for each printhead integrated circuit.

The printhead modules are removably mounted to the casing by clamping the printhead modules to the casing so as to constrain movement of the modules in the printing direction whilst allowing movement of the printhead modules along the longitudinal direction of the casing so as to account for thermal expansion and contraction of the casing during printing (see page 6, line 33-page 7, line 9 and page 13, line 34-page 14, line 18 of the present specification). Amended independent claim 1 recites these features of the present invention.

On the other hand, Silverbrook discloses an arrangement in which each printhead module 12 has a single microelectromechanical chip 18 and support molding 26,28. Each module is plugged into a reservoir molding 32 housing an ink reservoir 16, which is secured to a chassis 14. Each module may be removed from the reservoir molding, however scalability of the printhead assembly 10 is not provided, as the reservoir molding is a set length.

Further, the reservoir molding is heat staked to the chassis, such that the reservoir molding is not able to move relative to the chassis. Whilst the modules are clipped to the reservoir molding by the clips 44 of the modules, each module does not comprise more than one printhead chip, as discussed above, and in any case the clips locate within receiving formations 92 of the reservoir molding which clearly constrain all movement of the modules relative to the reservoir molding. Moreover, movement of the modules is undesired in Silverbrook since the filling funnels 38 and associated collars 40 of the modules must remain sealingly engaged with the nozzles 42 of the reservoir molding (see col. 2, lines 6-53, col. 5, lines 3-38 and Fig. 3 of Silverbrook).

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-5 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed, or suggested, by Silverbrook.

Regarding Provisional Double Patenting Rejections

With respect to the provisional non-statutory double patenting rejection of pending claims 1-5 over claims 1-5 of copending Application No. 10/760,216, a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) is being submitted herewith; the present application and Application No. 10/760,216 being commonly owned by the Applicant.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,
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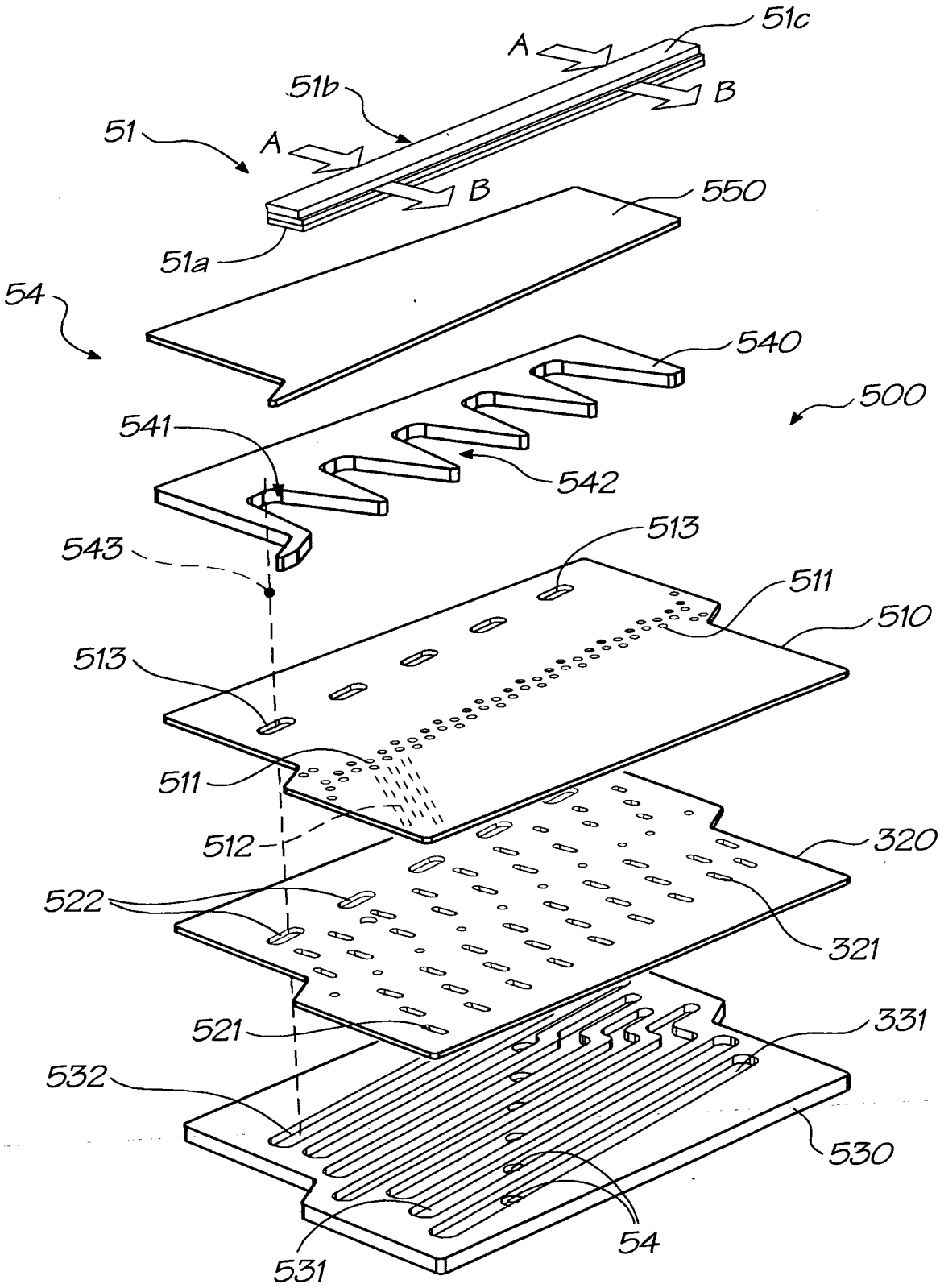

FIG. 43